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ABSTRACT

The changing profile of the Latino population in the American Midwest, based primarily on recent Bureau of Labor Statistics and Census data, is summarized for policy makers and other interested parties. This report is intended as a reference and focal point for classroom discussion of regional social and public policy issues. A section on data source details the many sources of regional statistics beyond the major federal sources and also examines some of the problems involved with statistics on Latinos. The profile contains two regional maps, one indicating major metropolitan areas in the Great Lakes states and the other indicating the percentage of Hispanics by county in the Great Lakes states. Also included is a list of over 60 demographic highlights focusing on the following issues: (1) the changing demographic structure and growth of the Latino population; (2) changing nature of Latino families; (3) impact of economic restructuring on Latino participation in the labor force and growing economic inequality; (4) educational status of Latinos in light of post-industrial economic development; and (5) relationship between residential status and economic well-being. (JB)

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Life in the Industrial Heartland: A Profile of Latinos in the Midwest

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide a portrait of the changing profile of the Latino population in the Midwest to interested persons and policy makers. In light of the mission of the Julian Samora Research Institute to generate and transmit research findings to academicians, service providers and public officials, this report forthcoming provides detailed information about a population which heretofore has been generally ignored. Although we have entered into the last decade of the century, there have been no previous reports issued specifically focusing on Latinos in the Midwest which utilize available Bureau of Labor statistics or Census data. This document provides a historical context upon which we can continue to build our knowledge base regarding the socioeconomic conditions of Latinos in the region.

This document is intended to serve as a reference resource as well as to provide a mechanism for the exchange of information and the development of public policy. In addition, this report can be adopted for use in classroom discussions of regional social issues and their varying impacts upon Latinos as well as Anglos and Blacks. The data contained herein provides a comprehensive picture of the Latino experience in a comparative perspective.

The profile is comprised of over 60 figures which are accompanied by a brief descriptive text. These figures are organized into five sections and within each section, the data which have been selected for inclusion in the document reflect current themes in the policy arena. In addition, they represent information which is vital to the understanding of the Latino experience in the Midwest. The extent to which these data are available in this document for various geographical units (i.e. region, state, SMSA) and subpopulations is a function of their availability as well as their importance to the profile. While we do not pretend to provide an exhaustive portrait of the characteristics of Latinos in the region, we have compiled a detailed composite from which we can drive tentative policy goals.

Major Themes in the Profile

The major policy issues addressed in this document include: 1) the changing demographic structure and growth of the Latino population; 2) the changing nature of Latino families; 3) the impact of economic restructuring on Latino participation in the labor force and growing economic inequality; 4) the educational status of Latinos in light of post-industrial economic development; and 5) the relationship between residential status and Latino socioeconomic well-being. By focusing on Latinos in the Midwest, we trace the shifting fate of a population who moved into the region primarily for economic reasons and until 1970 was relatively affluent when compared to Latino populations in other regions of the country. Moreover, the heterogeneity of the Latino population in the region enables us to examine more closely the varying impact of these changes on specific Latino subgroups. It is only after we examine these nuances more carefully and within a particular regional context that policies may be developed which foster Latino social and economic well-being.

Data Sources

The primary sources of data for this report were from the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional statistics were derived primarily from the Detailed Population Characteristics and Detailed Housing Characteristics, United States Summary for 1970 and 1980. State-level statistics were obtained from the published General S ocial and Economic Characteristics for 1970 and 1980 for each state in the region. In addition, the Public Use Microdata Sample A tape files were utilized to derive both state level and metropolitan area indicators for 1980. Additional published Census sources include Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin for States, Metropolitan Areas, and Selected Counties: 1980 to 1985 and The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1988. Economic indicators were also obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics publication, Employment and Earnings for various years. Segregation scores were calculated based on tract level data from the Census Summary Tape Files 1A.

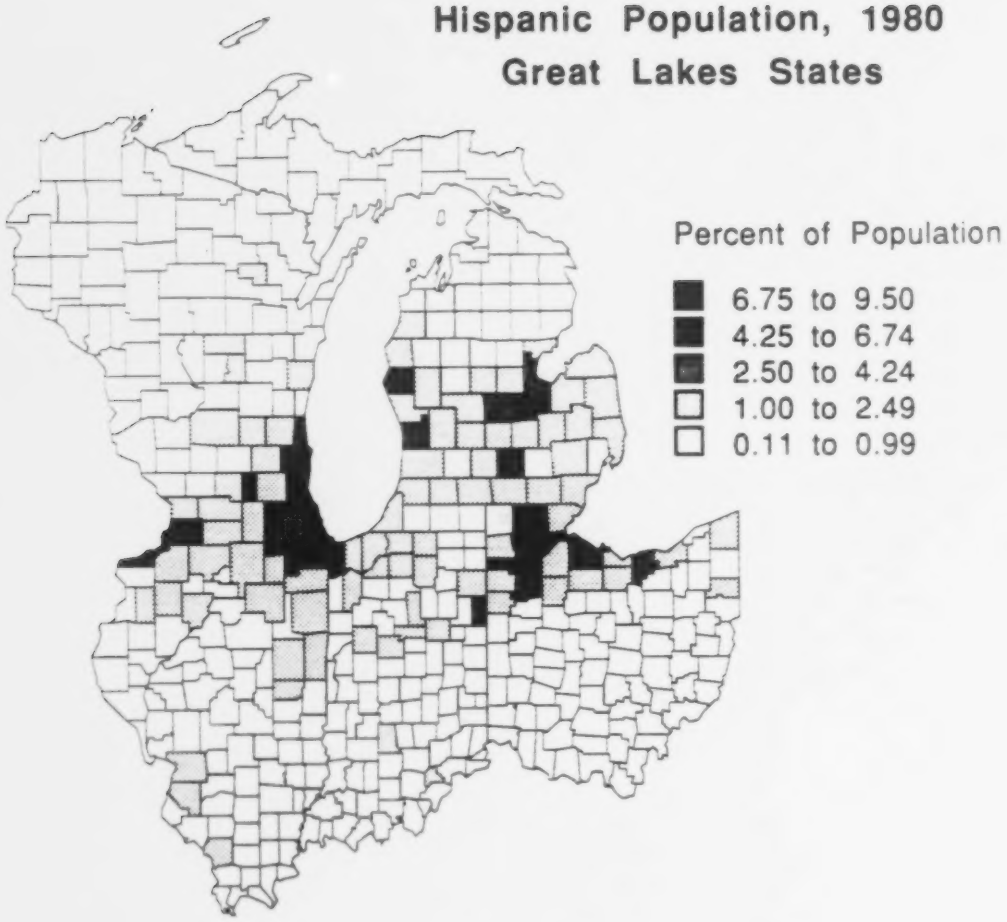
Although data on Latinos are more extensive now than in the past, several caveats in their use must be recognized. First, the Census has inconsistently defined and collected information on Latinos. The 1980 Census represents the first time where a single definition of Latino was used nationwide for the entire population. In 1980, Spanish heritage was determined based on respondent self-identification to the question "Is this person of Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent?" In previous Censuses, the definition varied regionally. For example, in 1970 Latinos in the Southwest were asked if they were persons of Spanish language or Spanish surname while persons in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania were asked if they were of Puerto Rican birth of parentage. In the Midwest, Latinos were identified on the basis of Spanish language. This inconsistency in definition makes comparisons problematic. Nevertheless, for the Midwest, the 1970 definition of Latino covers the majority of the population and closely approximates the larger population identified with the 1980 Spanish Origin indicator. While discrepancies may occur as a result of these inconsistencies we felt that it was important to include some comparative information from 1970 in order to crudely measure the changing trends and patterns.

Second, it is still somewhat problematic to examine differences for Latino subgroups. Most published reports have only sketchy information about Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans and other Latino subpopulations. Moreover, the sample size for a particular subgroup may be so small as to render any statistics to be extremely unreliable or totally worthless. In addition, published information for Anglos and Blacks are often confounded by the inclusion of Latinos in either of the racial categories. As much as possible, the data presented in the profile reflect mutually exclusive subpopulations.

A third problem reflects one of geographical level of analysis. Generally available local area data are less detailed than those existing at the state level. Often times regional statistics are difficult to generate as well. As a result, we are not always able to provide detailed information about a particular characteristic for the various geographical areas under study.

Finally, we are still limited in the range of information available on Latinos. We have extremely limited information on issues such as health status and other concerns for the region. Part of this simply reflects the fact that information on Latinos is not even collected. Therefore, our picture of this population is incomplete.

Metropolitan Areas
Great Lakes States


Hispanic Population, 1980
Great Lakes States
Percent of Population
6.75 to 9.50
4.25 to 6.74
2.50 to 4.24
1.00 to 2.49
0.11 to 0.99

HIGHLIGHTS

Demographic Context

- In 1988, the Latino population in the Midwest totaled slightly less than 1.2 million persons, or approximately three percent of the region's total population.

- Eighty-two percent of all Latinos residing in the Midwest live in 19 metropolitan areas. Approximately one-half live in the Chicago SMSA.

- In the period from 1970 to 1988, the Latino population in the Midwest increased by 40 percent. The greatest gain occurred in Illinois (107 percent).

- While most Latino communities in the Midwest grew in the 1980's, the Latino population declined in Cleveland, Detroit, Ft. Wayne, and Toledo.

- The Latino population in the region is very heterogeneous. Approximately 63 percent are Mexican, 19 percent are Puerto Rican, 3 percent are Cuban and the remaining 15 percent are from Central or South America.

- Approximately one-half of all Latinos residing in the region were born in their state of residence. One sixth were foreign born.

- Nearly one-half of all Latinos in the Midwest were under 20 years of age in 1980. Three percent were elderly. The median age was 21.9 years.

Family and Household Characteristics

- Among Latino adults who were ever married, 75 percent were still married, 20 percent were divorced, and three percent were widowed.

- The typical Latino household has 4.0 persons.

- The number of Latino households headed by females rose sharply during the 1970's. By 1980, one out of six Latino households were headed by women. Among Latinos, Puerto Ricans have the highest proportion of female headed households.

- Fertility rates for Latina women are higher than those for Anglo and Black women between the ages of 25 to 44.

Economic Context

- The region lost 828,000 or 16.4 percent of all jobs in the manufacturing sector in the period between 1970 and 1988.

- Despite the economic instability of the 1970's, Latinos increased their participation in the labor force. Approximately 68 percent of all Latinos were in the labor force in 1987.

- Latino male labor force participation declined in Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. Nonetheless, more than 80 percent of Latino males were in the labor force.

- Latinas had substantially lower labor force participation - approximately one-half of all Latinas over the age of 16 were in the workforce in 1980. Although substantially lower than Latino male labor force participation, the participation of Latinas in the labor force rose sharply during the 1970's.

- Among Spanish heritage groups, Cuban males and females had the highest labor force participation. Puerto Rican females had the lowest levels of participation in the labor force.

- Despite continued high levels of labor force attachment, unemployment rates for all groups increased between 1970 and 1987. Latino unemployment rates average 11.6 percent, nearly double the Anglo unemployment rate. The highest rate of Latino unemployment occurred in Michigan where almost one out of every five Latino workers were unemployed.

- Cubans experienced the lowest levels of unemployment. Mexican and Puerto Ricans experienced double-digit unemployment rates just slightly lower than those experienced by Blacks.

- Latino workers continued to be disproportionatley concentrated in blue-collar employment. Approximately one-half of all Latino workers were employed as craftsmen, operatives, transportation workers or laborers.

- During the 1970's, the income gap between Latino and Anglo families widened. Latino median family income at the end of the decade was $17,639 or 82 percent of Anglo median family income.

- Cubans had the highest median family income ($25,430) - even higher than that for Anglos. Puerto Ricans had the lowest median family income ($15,878).

- Female headed families in the region had incomes less than one-half of Anglo median family income. Among families headed by females, Latinas had the lowest median income ($7,115). The median income for families headed by Latinas was 61 percent of the median income for families headed by Anglo females.

- In 1980, nearly one quarter of all Latino families had incomes below $10,000. Almost two quarters had incomes between $10,000 and $25,000.

- Cuban households were the most affluent - 50 percent had incomes above $25,000. Puerto Rican households were the most economically disadvantaged - one-third had incomes below $10,000.

- Latino families generally experienced sharp increases in the proportion of families receiving public assistance. However, Black families continue to have the highest percentage of families with public assistance incomes (24 percent) followed by Latinos (13 percent).

- Nearly 20 percent of all Latino families were impoverished in 1980. Furthermore, the percent of Latino families living in poverty grew faster than for either Anglos or Blacks. Puerto Ricans had the highest poverty rates (27 percent). Cubans had the lowest (10 percent).

- Households headed by Latinas had the highest incidence of poverty. Nearly one-half of all households headed by Latinas were poor.

- Puerto Rican households headed by women were the most impoverished of all racial or ethnic groups (> 60 percent). Roughly 45 percent of Mexican households headed by females were poor.

Educational Status

- Despite gains made during the 1970's, the median level of schooling for Latino adults in 1980 was 11.6 years. The average level of education was lowest among Mexicans and Puerto Ricans (10 years).

- Less than one-half of all Latino adults (25 years or older) have completed high school. Mexicans and Puerto Rican adults had the lowest levels of high school completion in 1980 (39%).

- Approximately 40 percent of young Latinos between the ages of 18 and 24 did not complete high school - twice the dropout rate for Anglos.

- Less than 10 percent of Latino adults had attended college, compared to 15 percent for Anglos and 8 percent for Blacks.

- Nearly 817,000 persons or two percent of the region's population over age 5 speaks Spanish in the home.

Residential Status

- Latinos had the lowest rate of home ownership in the region.

- Latinos pay proportionately more of their incomes on rent than do Anglos. Median contract rent was $227 in 1980.

- The incidence of Latino overcrowding on the average is three times higher than that experienced by Anglos. Latino overcrowding is most severe in Chicago where nearly one-third of all Latinos live in crowded housing conditions.

- Latinos experience moderate to high levels of residential segregation from both Anglos and Blacks. The highest levels of Latino-Anglo segregation occurred in Chicago and Lorain. The highest level of Latino-Black segregation occurred in Chicago and Cleveland.

LIFE IN THE INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND: A PROFILE OF LATINOS IN THE MIDWEST

By
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Julian Samora Research Institute

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The purpose of this document is to provide a portrait of the changing profile of the Latino population in the Midwest to interested persons and policy makers. In light of the mission of the Julian Samora Research Institute to generate and transmit research findings to academicians, service providers and public officials, this report provides detailed information about a population which heretofore has generally been ignored. Although we have entered into the the last decade of the century, there have been no previous reports issued specifically focusing on Latinos in the Midwest which utilize available Bureau of Labor statistics or Census data. This document provides a historical context upon which we can continue to build our knowledge base regarding the socioeconomic conditions of Latinos in the region. Specifically, the demographic profile focuses on:

- The Demographic Context of the Midwest
- Family and Household Characteristics
- The Impact of Economic Restructuring in the Midwest
- Educational Status of Latinos in the Midwest
- Residential Characteristics

About the Author: Dr. Santiago is a visiting professor at Michigan State University as well as a research associate of the Julian Samora Research Institute. She has conducted research on Latinos in the Midwest as well as in the state of New Jersey. Among her areas of expertise are urban and population geography and research methodology.

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